

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF June 4, 2007**

**St. Mary's County Governmental Center**

**Members Present: George E. Baroniak, Chair**

**Joseph B. Bush, Vice Chair**

**Arthur E. Goeller, Member**

**Warren Kunz, Member**

**Viola Gardner, Alternate Member**

**Susan J. Wolfe, Executive Secretary**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Baroniak at 2:03 p.m. Ms. Holder could not attend the meeting. Mr. Goeller will not be able to attend the June 18, 2007 meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held on June 18, 2007.

**REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES:**

Minutes of May 7, 2007. A motion was made by Mr. Bush to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and carried.

Minutes and Executive Session Minutes of May 21, 2007. The two minutes of this meeting will be reviewed at the June 18, 2007 meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Complaints. Mr. Baroniak reported that the advisory opinions were mailed to Mr. Burch, with copies to John Savich, County Administrator. Letters with the appropriate advisory opinions were sent to Mr. Parlett and Mr. Dorsey.

Advisory Opinions. Mr. Kunz opened a discussion about the format of advisory opinions. It was agreed that the Commission members will study the current format to determine if improvements are needed.

Lobbying. Members will be asked to review the latest release of lobbying rules from the Maryland State Ethics Commission in order to determine their impact on the Commission's Ordinance and Rules of Procedure, as well as on the county at large. Mr. Baroniak asked Ms. Wolfe to provide copies of the lobbying rules to John Savich and Christy Holt Chesser. As soon as the review is completed, Commission members will be able to determine when best to hold a training session under the guidance of the State Commission.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Baroniak distributed a letter he received from Commissioner Raley inquiring as to whether there is a conflict of interest for Mr. Brett Grohsgal, who has participated in the formation of the Home Grown Farm Market LLC, to become a member of the organization. Dr. Christine Bergmark, Executive Director of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission, a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, is responsible for disposition of tobacco funds to enterprises such as the Market LLC. Dr. Bergmark is the spouse of Mr. Grohsgal. Commission members began a discussion of the issues as presented in Commissioner Raley's letter. It was agreed that more information is necessary to complete this review. Mr. Baroniak will gather the necessary information and present it at the next meeting.

Mr. Baroniak read a letter from Ms. Wolfe advising that she is resigning as Executive Secretary in order to devote time to her family and her new position as Executive Director of the St. Mary's County Historical Society. Ms. Gardner advised that she also is resigning as an Alternate Member. Reluctantly, members agreed to accept her resignation with the stipulation that she act as an adviser to the Commission, when necessary.

**FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS:**

No statements were reviewed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Ms. Gardner to adjourn the meeting at 2:58 p.m. The motion was seconded and carried.